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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/837,998 04/19/01 JACOBS

B A33781 - 072

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
44TH FLOOR
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK NY 10112-4498

HM22/1023

EXAMINER

GUZO, D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1636

DATE MAILED:

10/23/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/837,998	JACOBS ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	David Guzo	1636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____. *Bela J. Doss*
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jacobs (WO 99/55910).

Applicants and Jacobs (WO 99/55910, published 11/4/99, see whole document, particularly Claims 1-20 and the “Summary of the Invention” section) recite expression vectors comprising a vaccinia virus having a deletion of the E3L gene wherein said vector further comprises exogenous DNA operably linked to regulatory elements that control expression of said exogenous DNA and a composition comprising said vector and a carrier. It is noted that applicants recite the deletion in the region encoding the E3L gene product using open language (having) and hence the deletion is not limited to amino acids 184-190 of the E3L gene product. Jacobs therefore teaches the claimed invention.

3. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Beattie et al. Both applicants and Beattie et al. (Cited by applicants, J. Virol., 1995, Vol. 65, No. 1, pp.

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499-505, see whole article, particularly the Abstract the Discussion sections) recite expression vectors comprising a vaccinia virus having a deletion in the E3L region which encompasses the region encoding amino acids 184-190 (Beattie et al. recites deletion of the entire E3L gene) wherein said vector further comprises exogenous DNA encoding an antigen (i.e. Beattie et al. recites the reovirus σ3 protein, which can be an antigen) operably linked to regulatory elements that control expression of said exogenous DNA and compositions comprising the vector and a carrier (i.e. a carrier involved in infecting cells with the vector). Both applicants and Beattie et al. also recite a method of making a recombinant gene product (i.e. Beattie et al. recites the reovirus σ3 protein) comprising subjecting the expression vector to conditions under the recombinant gene is expressed. Therefore, Beattie et al. teaches the claimed invention.

4. The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because:

It was not executed in accordance with either 37 CFR 1.66 or 1.68. Specifically, inventor Sangeetha Vijaysri has not signed the Declaration.

5. Claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be

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allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

No Claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Guzo whose telephone number is (703) 308-1906. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, George Elliott, can be reached on (703) 308-4003. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding or relating to attachments to this Office Action should be directed to Patent Analyst Zeta Adams whose telephone number is (703) 305-3291.

David Guzo
October 21, 2001

DAVID GUZO
PRIMARY EXAMINER
